



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EL PASO BORDER PATROL AGENT PLEADS GUILTY TO
CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ALIEN SMUGGLING AND MONEY LAUNDERING**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that U.S. Border Patrol agent Jesus Miguel Huizar faces five years in federal prison after pleading guilty this morning to conspiracy to smuggle, transport and harbor aliens and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

Appearing before United States District Judge David Briones, Huizar admitted that from January 2005 to present he conspired to smuggle over 100 illegal aliens into the United States from Mexico. Specifically, Huizar was paid a portion of the smuggling fees, approximately \$350 per alien, to facilitate the transportation of undocumented aliens through the interior Border Patrol checkpoints in New Mexico. Huizar also agreed to forfeit to the Government a house he owned in El Paso (located at 9072 Geranium) used by the organization as a safe house. He also agreed to pay a monetary judgement in the amount of \$500,000—the amount of proceeds derived from the alleged criminal activity.

A trial date for Huizar's co-defendants—El Paso resident Rosa Isela Escajeda, age 46, and Chihuahua, Mexico residents Emeterio Sigala-Favela, age 37, and Luis Carlos Chacon-Rubio, age 32—has yet to be scheduled. Each is charged in the alien smuggling conspiracy. Upon conviction, each faces up to ten years in federal prison.

This case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Investigations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Juanita Fielden is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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